GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:33
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
SMALL FAMILY NORMS
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce any package of incentives and disincentives to encourage small family norms, particularly in respect of BPL families to control the population of the country as reported in the `Rashtriya Sahara` dated December 8, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the extent of expenditure to be incurred thereon; and

(c) by when it is likely to be finalised?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 33 FOR 19.2.2003

The National Population Policy, 2000, as approved by the Parliament, aims to achieve a stable population by 2045 by adopting a comprehensive approach to population issues. As per this policy, focus is on improving access to an improved quality of services and active participation and involvement of the people. It is generally believed that such an approach based on social consent is more sustainable. However, Disincentives for encouraging a small family norm will require a larger national consensus.

A majority of the poor are unable to access health care services in time on account of inability to pay. Further, an important determinant for the adoption of the small family norm is the health and security of life of women and children. To address these two concerns, the NPP, 2000 has envisages establishing a Family Welfare Linked Health Insurance Plan to cover couples below the poverty line having not more than two living children for hospital treatment not exceeding Rs.5,000/-. The details of this scheme are now being worked out in consultation with experts and State Governments. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs.250.00 crores has been earmarked for this purpose.